

News Release from
The Honorable Sandra Doorley
Monroe County District Attorney

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR: David Marion
Monroe County District Attorney's Office
47 South Fitzhugh Street
Rochester, NY 14614
(585) 753-4532

Persistent Violent Felon Michael Ross Sentenced to 25 Years to Life in Prison

Rochester, NY- Today, Judge James Piampiano sentenced 57 year old Michael Ross to 25 Years to Life in prison after adjudicating him a Persistent Violent Felon, a designation that mandates for longer sentences for defendants with a history of violent crime. Ross, whose most recent conviction for Second Degree Attempted Murder, Second Degree Strangulation, and Second Degree Assault occurred on March 18th, has a series of violent felony convictions dating back to 1998. In addition to the life sentence, Ross was issued a 100 year No-Contact Order of Protection, preventing him from contacting his most recent victim—his foster mother—for the remainder of her life.

Long a part of New York State Penal Law, the designation of Persistent Violent Felon is mandated upon a defendant who is facing sentencing for a violent felony offense and has been previously convicted of at least two violent felonies within the last ten years (not counting time spent incarcerated). Without the Persistent Violent Felon determination, Ross, who completed his most recent 7 year prison sentence less than 24 months ago, would have faced a determinate sentence of between 10 and 25 years in prison and would have been released upon completion of this sentence. Now, Ross is facing life in prison.

Assistant District Attorney Monica O'Brien prosecuted the case for the People.

"Michael Ross is the epitome of the type of individual that lawmakers had in mind when they drafted the mandatory Persistent Violent Felon statute years ago," said O'Brien. "He is a consummately violent person who is a threat to anyone with whom he comes into contact. I have no doubt that the community is safer as a result of today's sentence."

Michael Ross remains in Monroe County jail, but will be transferred to a State correctional facility within days to begin serving his 25 Year to Life sentence.

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